

Oscar's Satellite Station

■ Satellite DXer Oscar Campos on his covered terrace at his home in Santiago de Chile. From here he enjoys watching satellite TV channels from all over the world.

- *Receives the entire world with his seven Ku-band dishes and one C-band antenna*
- *As a former uplink station employee, he knows his way around satellite TV*
- *His dishes are his mascots*
- *Always comes home from trips with satellite components*



■ Oscar Campos mounted six 70cm dishes in a row: three of them were installed normally while the other three were installed in the inverted position. In the middle is a Helix antenna for the reception of the NOAA weather satellites.

From long-distance radio listener to long-distance TV viewer

Satellite reception is nothing new for Oscar Campos, he worked for many years at an earth station. His employer was the Chilean Telecommunications company ENTEL and he worked at the Longovilo teleport southwest of the Chilean capital of Santiago as an electrical engineer. That's already nine years ago but since then he's managed to construct his own satellite reception system at his home.

"The dishes are here on my terrace", he explains to us. He refers to them as his mascots. "I don't have a cat or a dog; I have my dish antennas to take care of", he says smiling.

He has an array of 70cm dishes: "Here on the left side is the dish aligned to TELSATR 12 at 15W; the antenna on the right side is pointed to SATMEX 6 at 113W", he points out. He uses a DiSeqC multiswitch to switch between the antennas and two FTA receivers. "This setup lets me receive channels from all over the world including channels in Chinese, Russian, Arabic as well as many European channels and, of course, channels from Brazil, Argentina and Chile."

When he looks for new channels he makes use of a motorized test antenna that he has mounted on a pedestal. "I mounted this 90cm antenna in the in-

verted position so that I could also receive satellites at very low elevations."

For the C-band Oscar Campos uses a 1.8-meter dish on which he mounted expansion panels to convert it into a 2.4-meter antenna. "I use it to receive the analog channels from Brazil but this won't last too much longer; at some point the analog channels will be turned off." In return though he also receives the very new 3D and HD channels in DVB-S2.

An interesting feature in his antenna park is a helix antenna. "It's a QFH Quadri Filar Helix antenna that I use to receive APT signals in the 137 MHz

range. It has to do with the NOAA polar satellites that transmit weather images that are freely receivable." With this antenna he can always check live what the weather is like at that particular moment. "It's also FTA even though there's no TV or radio; but very few people know about this free service."

He is always busy modifying his antenna system and installing new dishes. "Whenever I travel out of the country

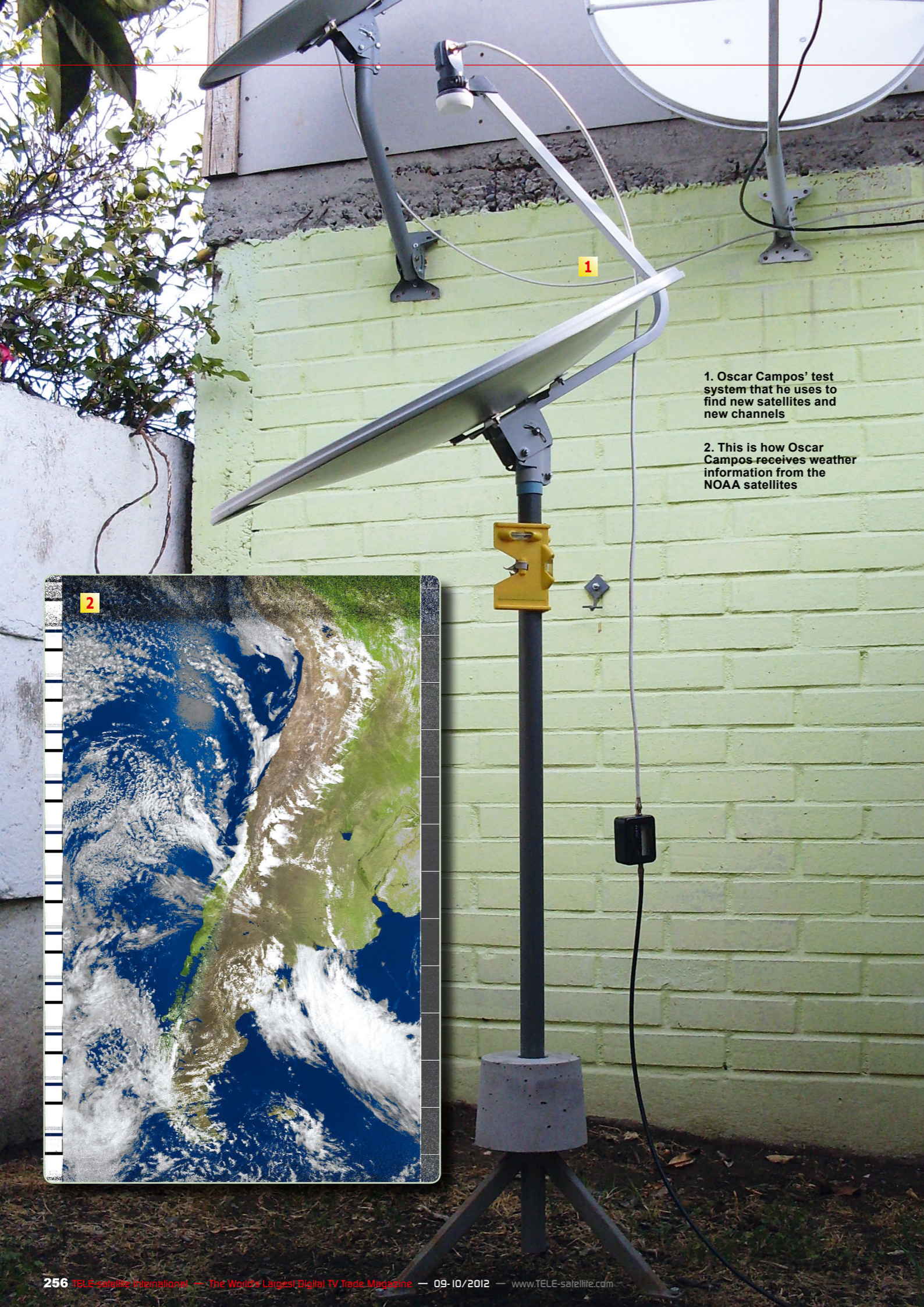
I always bring something back for my reception system; it could be a multi-switch, an LNB or a new receiver." The channels that he enjoys the most are the Russian channels CTC on TELSTAR 12 and Russia Today on INTELSAT 9. There's a reason for this: "When I was younger I heard Radio Moscow for the first time on my father's shortwave radio. I was fascinated by that and wondered how people lived on the other side of the world. Today, thanks to sat-

ellites, I can watch TV from these countries!" He also likes to watch the news channels on CCTV from China as well as NHK from Japan. He finds particularly interesting the channels Rede TV and TV Scola from Brazil on STARONE C2.

Oscar Campos is the master of his own satellite station with which he watches channels from all over the world in the best quality right in his home in Santiago.



■ The large 2.4-meter antenna he uses for analog signal reception.



1. Oscar Campos' test system that he uses to find new satellites and new channels

2. This is how Oscar Campos receives weather information from the NOAA satellites

